

movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position in which the jaws are substantially parallel, the jaw members having insulated outer surfaces with convex, opposed and facing mating surfaces, each mating surface having a central peak, the central peak of the first jaw being aligned with the central peak of the second jaw;

a first elongated electrically conductive ablation member carried by the first jaw member so as to provide electrical current generally along the central peak to tissue clamped between the jaw members;

a second elongated electrically conductive ablation member carried by the second jaw member so as to provide electrical current generally along the central peak to tissue clamped between the jaw members;

the first and second conductive ablation members being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source; and

one of the first and second mating jaw members having at least one thermocouple disposed for measuring the temperature of tissue held between the jaw members, the thermocouple being adapted to be connected to a remote monitoring device.

4. (Amended) A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, the jaws being substantially parallel in the closed position to compress tissue therebetween; each jaw including a conductive ablation

152 member and a receding clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the conductive ablation member and receding clamping surface of the other jaw; the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprising an insulating material and the face-to-face conductive ablation members being connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaws; one of the first and second grasping jaws having at least one thermocouple disposed for measuring the temperature of tissue held between the grasping jaws, the thermocouple being adapted to be connected to a remote monitoring device.

153 7. (New) A tissue clamping device comprising first and second jaw members movable between an open position for receiving tissue therebetween and a clamping position for compressing the tissue therebetween, at least one of the jaw members including at least one thermocouple located to measure the temperature of tissue held between the jaw members when in the clamped position.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the above application. Claims 1, 4 and 7 are independent (Claim 7 is newly added). In the Office Action of November 20, 2002, claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,071,281 to Burnside and claim 4 was rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,464,700 to Koblish. The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on